

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pamlico County's Only Free Clinic Gets a Home of its Own After 25 Years, Paving Way to Expand Care for Vulnerable Residents of 3 ENC Counties

- *Hope Clinic plans to relocate from Pamlico County Health Department space in January*
- *Clinic serves uninsured, underinsured residents of Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico counties*
- *Nonprofit offering naming rights to entice donors to make significant gifts for facility*

BAYBORO, N.C. (Nov. 18, 2024) – Hope Clinic, which provides free health care to low-income uninsured and underinsured residents of Pamlico, Craven and Beaufort counties, is getting a home it can call its own for the first time in its 25-year history – and the ability to serve more people who can't afford care.

The clinic expects to move into its new quarters at 13808 N.C. 55 in Bayboro in January, after working out of space in the Pamlico County Health Department since February 1999. The clinic began as a medical mission outreach initiative of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Oriental in 1998.

The 3,600-s.f. location will give [Hope Clinic](#) space for four exam rooms, one procedure suite, lab, an expanded pharmacy, a meeting room that can be used for health education, training, or group recovery meetings and flex spacing for rotating specialist providers such as podiatrists, dermatologists, and more.

“Our mission is to ensure that everyone in our community has access to high-quality, affordable health care regardless of ability to pay,” said Yolanda Cristiani, executive director of Hope Clinic. “This move will allow us to expand our services and hours of operation and ultimately serve more of our neighbors.”

The new space also creates the potential for an on-site dental clinic, Cristiani said. Expanding access to oral health care is a major focus of the North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics ([NCAFCC](#)), a network including Hope Clinic and 68 other independent member clinics statewide.

Hope Clinic recently has been seeing patients at the county health department one evening every other week and at mobile clinics in outlying locations of the three-county area on alternating weeks. The clinic will be able to serve patients two or three days a week in the new space and more at its mobile clinics.

“Hope Clinic has been delivering quality health care to Eastern North Carolina's most vulnerable residents for 25 years,” said NCAFCC CEO April Cook. “We congratulate Yolanda and staff on their new quarters, which will enable even more people to find a medical home with a free and charitable clinic.”

Hope Clinic is accepting new patients who meet its eligibility requirements. The clinic serves adult residents of Pamlico, Craven and Beaufort counties who are between the ages of 18 and 64, are uninsured or underinsured, and have household incomes at or below 300% of the poverty level.

Those interested in becoming a patient can contact Clinic Support Coordinator Kim Stewart at (252) 745-5760, extension 100.

To support Hope Clinic and its patients, the SJ Edwards Foundation and Gregory and Janet Smith have each generously pledged \$25,000 in matching dollars to supplement other donations the clinic is able to raise and naming opportunities at the new location are available. Learn more at www.hopeclinic.net.

Hope Clinic will also need assistance outfitting the much larger space, and some small items can be ordered from its Amazon Wish List. The link to the wish list is at <https://a.co/OWFVPWn>. Anyone interested in finding out more about helping can contact Cristiani at yolanda@hopeclinic.net

About Hope Clinic

Hope Clinic is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on community and volunteer support to achieve its mission of providing free medical care to those in need in Pamlico County and surrounding communities. With one full-time executive director, seven part-time staff members and more than 60 volunteers, the clinic provides a range of services to low-income uninsured and underinsured residents of Beaufort, Craven and Pamlico counties. In 2023, Hope Clinic provided 778 medical office visits, including patients served at 21 mobile outreach clinics in five locations, made 303 specialist referrals, dispensed 5,601 prescriptions, and conducted 131 case management visits and 86 drug and alcohol counseling visits, for a total of \$2,950,000 in health-care services. Learn more at www.hopeclinic.net.

About The North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

The North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics supports 69 member clinics in expanding access to health care, reducing health disparities and improving the health of uninsured and underinsured individuals. Member clinics are a vital part of North Carolina's safety net, providing care for more than 75,000 patients in 84 counties, including primary and specialty medical care; dental care; pharmacy services; optometry; behavioral health care; lab tests and hospital referrals, in most cases at no cost to the patient. The association supports member clinics with education, advocacy, research, funding and collaboration, and promotes quality health care for all North Carolinians. Learn more at www.ncafcc.org.

Media Contacts

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